

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 281235Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1412

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T NICOSIA 1148

EXDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR CY TU

SUBJ: TURKISH AMBASSADOR EXPLAINS TURKEY'S STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVES IN CYPRUS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME MARCH 24, TURKISH AMBASSADOR INHAN REITERATED HIS ASSERTION THAT TURKEY AS A MATTER OF CAREFULLY CONSIDERED NATIONAL POLICY DOES NOT WANT PARTITION OF CYPRUS. PARTITION, INHAN SAID, WOULD CREATE YET ANOTHER LINE OF CONFRONTATION WITH GREECE AND WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH TURKISH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ON CYPRUS AS DEFINED BY TURKEY'S "IMPERIAL INTERESTS".

2. I ASKED INHAN TO CLARIFY WHAT TURKEY'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES WERE. IN REPLY, INHAN SAID TURKEY REGARDS ITSELF AS A CONTINENT SURROUNDED BY THREE SEAS. TO "BREATHE" AS A NATION AND SINCE IT IS BLOCKED BY RUSSIA ON THE BLACK SEA, IT MUST HAVE UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM OF TRANSIT BY SEA AND BY AIR IN THE AEGEAN AND ON ITS SOUTHERN COAST. A GREEK-CONTROLLED CYPRUS WOULD BE RESTRICTIVE IN THE LATTER AREA.

3. I ASKED INHAN IF TURKEY WERE NOT, AS MANY OF MY TURKISH FRIENDS HAD TOLD ME, CONCERNED IN ADDITION ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS MIGHT SOME DAY TURN COMMUNIST AND GRANT THE SOVIETS BASE RIGHTS, THEREBY LEAPFROGGING MAINLAND TURKEY'S DEFENSES. I WONDERED WHETHER, FLOWING FROM THIS, TURKEY DID NOT

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SEEK TO RETAIN IN CYPRUS PERMANENT MILITARY FACILITIES SUCH AS

AIRPORTS, HARBOR INSTALLATIONS AND CAMPS, NOT NECESSARILY TROOPS, AND HAVE TREATY RIGHTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT A QUICK REENTRY IF THE GREEK CYPRIOT SITUATION SHOULD GO SOUR. INHAN SAID THIS WAS CORRECT.

4. REFERRING TO WHAT HE TERMED THE UNRECONSTRUCTED ATTITUDE OF GREEKS, WHICH WOULD IN HIS OPINION BRING RESUMED NEGOTIATION TO FAILURE, INHAN SAID HE HAD REPORTS THAT GUERILLA GROUPS BEING FORMED. IF THEY WERE INSANE ENOUGH TO ACT, TURKEY WOULD REACT "TEN FOR ONE". I INFORMED INHAN THAT WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INDICATION OF ANY SUCH PHENOMENON, GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP, WE WERE CONVINCED, WELL APPRECIATED WHAT TURKISH MILITARY REACTION WOULD BE AND WERE TAKING A STRONG STAND IN INTERNAL DISCUSSION WHENEVER THIS SUBJECT BRUITED.  
CRAWFORD

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MILITARY BASES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TURKISH AMBASSADOR EXPLAINS TURKEY'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN CYPRUS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CY, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006